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I would like to welcome you to the second meeting of what we have designated the Rwanda Operational Support Group. I am pleased that so many of the initial participants are again represented here today, especially at this busy time of year. We welcome two new "friends of Rwanda", the government of Spain and the Organization of African Unity.

During our first meeting in Washington in late November, we identified a number of common concerns regarding the situation in Rwanda. I was struck - as perhaps were you - by the remarkable consensus during that discussion on both our common goals and on the general ways in which we as a support group might bolster UN and Rwanda's own efforts to achieve them.

Now it is time to translate that general consensus into concrete actions. An important part of this effort will be to identify the particular resources which we collectively can make available to address our concerns, both through contributions to the Government of Rwanda and to United Nations and other international programs. In that regard, we encouraged participants to prepare in advance a summary of those resources; we will have an opportunity to share that information later in the morning.

But support for Rwanda is not only about finances. We agreed at our initial meeting that this gathering was not to be merely another donors' pledging session. Our agenda was ambitious, encompassing such complex issues as security in the refugee camps, UN and bilateral coordination, preparations for a regional refugee conference, human rights and accountability

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AUTHORITY: HARRY R. MELONE

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and - although we did not have time to address these - political reconciliation and the rising tensions in Burundi.

Since our meeting a brief three weeks ago, none of these issues has been resolved or diminished in importance. The Government of Zaire is growing increasingly impatient with the situation in the camps, and moved in at least one case to expel those it saw as troublemakers. The situation of the internally displaced is equally troubling, with most of those from disbanded camps merely moving to other camps. The Preparatory Conference for the regional refugee gathering was postponed. We have seen the violence in Burundi grow with the political impasse over parliamentary leadership.

On the positive side, UNAMIR's mandate was renewed December 9 for an additional 6 months, with strengthened language regarding protection of human rights monitors and international tribunal personnel. The Chief Prosecutor for the International Tribunal has begun his work and will make an initial visit to Kigali next week. And we have had the opportunity to express our concerns and exchange views here in Washington with a number of Rwandan officials, including Prime Minister Twagiramungu and Vice President Kagame. Some of your governments have met with these officials as well.

I believe you will agree that our collective message to the government of Rwanda has been - and should be - that actions speak louder than words - in human rights, in political reconciliation, in democracy-building. Taking our own admonition to heart, let's get down to work.

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Drafted:AF/C:LACecsarini

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Cleared:AF/C:RFendrick

AF/C:ARender

AF:PBushnell

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